

Lake Lansing Newsletter

Stormwater

Stormwater runoff is one of the leading contributors to lake degradation and accelerated aging. As rainwater flows over urban and suburban landscapes, it can pick up a variety of pollutants, ultimately flowing into lakes and water bodies. Understanding the sources of these contaminants is crucial for mitigating their impact.

Lawn/Driveways:

- **Fertilizers:** Excess nutrients promote harmful algae blooms that deplete oxygen and disrupt aquatic life.
- **Pet and Avian Waste:** Animal waste carries bacteria and pathogens that threaten water quality.
- **Pesticides:** These chemicals can be toxic to aquatic organisms, disrupting ecosystems.
- **Household Chemicals:** Cleaning products and other chemicals may seep into water systems, harming both plants and animals.

Streets:

- **Sediment:** Soil runoff can cloud water, reducing light penetration and harming aquatic plants. As sediment accumulates, it can cover aquatic habitat and impact aquatic organisms. Sediment often is a transport vector for nutrients, especially finer sediments like clay and silt.
- **Oils and Greases:** Leaking from vehicles, these substances coat aquatic habitats and threaten wildlife.
- **Cleaners/Detergents:** These chemicals can be toxic to aquatic organisms and affect water quality.
- **Increased Water Temperature:** Stormwater flowing over pavement can raise water temperatures in lakes, harming species sensitive to heat.
- **Salt:** Used for road de-icing, salt can increase the salinity of freshwater bodies, damaging aquatic ecosystems.

Drains:

- **Soil Erosion Sediment:** Runoff of eroded soil can choke aquatic ecosystems, leading to decreased water clarity and fish habitats.
- **All of the Above:** These drainage systems often carry a mix of contaminants from lawns, streets, and other surfaces, exacerbating pollution levels

What Can We Do?

Mitigating the impact of stormwater requires collective action in reducing chemical use, improving drainage systems, and adopting green infrastructure solutions (i.e. rain gardens, rain barrels, natural shorelines, etc.). Every step we take to reduce stormwater pollution helps protect our lakes for future generations.

By staying informed and making small changes in our daily practices, we can help preserve Lake Lansing.

A reliable resource for information on Michigan's inland lakes.



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Spring

2025

Lake Lansing SAD Advisory Committee

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**PROGRESSIVE
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Aquatic Plant Control

Extensive offshore aquatic herbicide treatments have historically been conducted in May to address the growth of invasive plant species, hybrid milfoil and curly-leaf pondweed. Since 2022, these treatments targeting hybrid milfoil were conducted using the systemic herbicides florasulfuron (ProcellaCOR) and triclopyr. These herbicides have reduced regrowth of the hybrid milfoil year after year to a more manageable level. Curly-leaf pondweed can be controlled using low-dose contact herbicides or mechanical harvesting. Due to the cost of mechanical harvesting, using an herbicide to control curly-leaf pondweed is preferred. Mechanical harvesting around the shoreline will be conducted again in 2025, primarily targeting starry stonewort and dense native plant growth. A tentative plant control program schedule can be found below. Please note, these dates are subject to change dependent on weather and growth conditions within the lake.

| Lake Lansing Tentative 2025 Aquatic Plant Control Program Schedule | | | |
|--|---------------------|---------|---|
| Tentative Survey | Tentative Treatment | Harvest | Description |
| Week of May 5 | Week of May 19 | No | Treatment of hybrid milfoil and curly-leaf pondweed. Potential algae treatment. |
| Week of June 23 | Week of July 7 | No | Spot treatments for hybrid milfoil. |
| Week of July 14 | None | TBD | Potential harvesting for starry stonewort and nuisance natives. |
| Week of August 11 | Week of August 18 | TBD | No likely treatment unless hybrid milfoil and algae growth is significant. Harvesting may occur if plant growth is extensive. |

Residents and the public are encouraged to utilize the boat washing stations at the public launch site both when entering and leaving Lake Lansing. Before launching into Lake Lansing, be sure to thoroughly inspect your watercraft for potential debris and material that can transport aquatic invasive species, especially if your watercraft has been in other waterbodies. All watercraft should be properly cleaned, drained, and dried prior to entering the lake.

